Lexington, Feb. 7. 1843.

My Dear Friend. —

I am reluctant to withdraw myself from the place, that has been assigned me among the lecturers on Slavery. But I already foresee, that it will not be possible for me to prepare myself in a suitable manner, without neglecting the duties of my present situation. My school is large. Here there are forty young women, (whose primary education has been, with few exceptions, very defective,) eager to fit themselves, in one short year, to be good teachers of the young. The discipline, to which they ought to be subjected, requires as you know a vigorous hand, and the most watchful eye. I have not yet become (nor shall I in one year) so accustomed to all my duties, that I can discharge them promptly and well, and then dismiss them from my mind, and turn to some other subjects of thought. No — my care for these young women goes with me wherever I go — and occupies my mind, though I may seem to be attending to other things. —

To prepare a lecture, fit to be delivered in the course that is proposed, especially upon Colonization, about which so much has been written and said, would take much more time I now foresee, than I can spare from my school and scholars. I ought to have considered this matter

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more carefully before I consented to be one of the lecturers. But I was pleased at the thought of taking a part in this course, and gave my answer without sufficient reflection. Since I saw my name in the papers, and the subject of it pressed me, I have looked about me to see when and where I should begin my part of the work — and do really find that I shall have no time nor place for it. — I therefore feel constrained to withdraw my name from the list — and with your leave, I would nominate my most excellent friend Rev Oliver Stearns of Hingham to supply my place. — He is sound, true-hearted, ardent, and able —

Yours affectionately

Samuel J. May —

PAID.

Mrs Maria W. Chapman
Summer Street.
Boston.

1843
J. J. Grey

MS.N.9.2.18.8